

# Awarding the CCST in Orthodontics

## Recommendation for the Award of CCST in Orthodontics and the recognition of the research component of training as part of this process

### From:

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### 1. Background

**1.1** In order for a trainee to apply to the General Dental Council for the award of a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training and entry to the Council’s list of Specialists in Orthodontics, there must be evidence of:

- a) Satisfactory completion of the three year full time (or equivalent) training programme.
- b) Satisfactory completion of the ARCP process
- c) Successful completion of the M Orth examination.

**1.2** In the GDC approved curriculum, there is a statement concerning the research element of the training programme as follows - *“In preparation for specialists undertaking and maintaining a modern evidence-based approach to orthodontic practise, achieved through continuing professional and personal development, it is expected that trainees have personal research training and experience. This experience is expected for all trainees and should be structured to the eventual career intentions of the trainee. The research component should fulfil the minimum M level requirements of the Quality Assurance Agency and may take the form of the satisfactory submission of a research dissertation (for example as part of an MSc, MClinDent, DDS or equivalent), and/or two papers in appropriately peer reviewed journals submitted on work undertaken during the training period.”*

### MODULE 22 – Orthodontic literature and Research

Objective	Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes	Teaching and Learning Methods	Assessments
<p>This module is intended to provide information about and experience in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods of critically analysing the literature</li> <li>• Summarising an article or literature</li> <li>• Undertaking a research project leading to publication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State how to read the literature and synthesise the information provided</li> <li>• Describe how to interpret data</li> <li>• Describe how to apply data interpretation to clinical practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply methodology to undertake a systematic style review</li> <li>• Write a scientific abstract</li> <li>• Report data in an article or dissertation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize the importance of new data developments</li> <li>• Recognize the importance of evidence based clinical care treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend trainee seminars including statistics seminars</li> <li>• Independent study</li> <li>• Web based e-learning sources</li> <li>• Attendance at suitable courses</li> <li>• Attendance at suitable meetings</li> <li>• Attendance at journal clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ARCP research milestones</li> <li>• Submission of a dissertation and /or articles for publication</li> </ul>

**1.3** The interpretation of this by the Joint Committee for Postgraduate Training in Dentistry and the Specialist Advisory Committee in Orthodontics is that, as part of the objectives of the training programme, a trainee should be capable of interpretation of scientific literature, undertaking research activities as well as preparing oral and written presentation of clinical and research findings.

**1.4** Recent events suggest that some trainees have been appointed to ST4 posts and/or have been signed up by the Postgraduate Dental Dean for the award of a CCST (presumably on the advice of the local Training Programme Director) and yet have not completed a higher degree nor submitted papers, based on work undertaken during the training period, in appropriately peer reviewed journals, for publication.

**1.5** Clearly this inconsistency needs to be addressed.

## **2. Solution**

**2.1** Research progress should form part of the ARCP process and the trainee's academic supervisor should be called upon to report as to a trainee's progress with either a Masters (or equivalent) degree or research leading to submission of two papers.

**2.2** Research milestones (see below) should be in place that can be referred to at the ARCP.

**2.3** Academic supervisors should alert the Training Programme Director and the Postgraduate Dental Dean as soon as possible of situations where a trainee's research progress where the trainee's progress has not met the criteria expected to fulfil the statement in 1.2 above.

**2.4** The Training Programme Director must have evidence that there has been satisfactory progression in all aspects of training (including research) at the annual assessments before signing up a trainee to sit the MOrth examination.

## **3. Milestones**

**3.1** At the present time there is a wide variation between universities as to the time of starting and completing the research component of a higher degree during StR training.

**3.2** It is incumbent upon Academic Supervisors to ensure that a trainee can complete the research component of a higher degree to allow submission of a dissertation / thesis or submit two papers based on this work, within the three year training period.

**3.3** The milestones need to be timetabled to enable applications to be completed in sufficient time to enter the June diets of the MOrth examinations and then be eligible for a CCST by completion of the programme.

**3.4** The milestones as to research progress monitored at the annual assessments must have a slight degree of flexibility but in essence should be as follows:

<b>Timing of ARCP</b>	<b>Minimum research progress expected if undertaking higher degree</b>	<b>Minimum research progress expected if undertaking submission of papers</b>
Within 12 months of starting	Protocol agreed, ethical and R&D approval obtained, critical appraisal of literature completed, sample size, material and methods agreed	Protocol(s) agreed, ethical and R&D approval(s) obtained, critical appraisals of literature completed, Sample size, material and methods agreed
Within 24 months of starting	Data collected and analysed appropriately	Data collected and analysed appropriately
Within 30 months of starting	Appropriate discussion and conclusions made. Project likely to be completed to satisfaction of academic supervisor within 5 months	Appropriate discussion and conclusions made. Papers likely to be in a format ready for submission to a peer reviewed journal to the satisfaction of the academic supervisor within 5 months
By end of training period (usually 36 months)	Project complete and dissertation / thesis submitted to the relevant university. Viva pending, if appropriate	Two papers, based on research carried out during the training period, submitted to appropriately peer reviewed journals.

DT 2nd December 2014